

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

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Zumwalts

Win OPC cheers, telling tough story like it is

When Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr. and his son, Elmo III, told their story to a packed OPC house, most of us got a surprise.

Not that it isn't tragic—father ordered Agent Orange used in Vietnam; naval officer son skippering riverboat, was years later afflicted with two kinds of cancer as apparent result.

Not that it isn't a tale of extraordinary courage. Of course it is. They have faced this, lived with it, and overcome it.

But that there is so much more to the story than is first perceived, and that these men can tell it now—like it was and is.

Couple things we, and others, didn't know. That Elmo III had polio as a kid—and fought back from it. That he then had a hole in his heart and underwent early-day open heart surgery—and fought back from it.

And then, back from a tough and dirty war in which the navy's riverboats played a frontline role, Elmo III, happily married, a successful lawyer, discovered he had cancer in Jan. '83—"For two years I learned to live with a terminal illness."

On top of that came Hodgkins Disease. "Six months of nine-drug chemo and it was still there."

What impressed us: The courage of both, the admiration of each for the other—and the inspiration both are to the many of us who were there to hear them.

We thought we might have to ask, but at the end, the admiral came right out and said it:

"Last January the medical authorities said my son had zero probability of survival. Today, there is a 55 percent chance he will be cured."

No space here to tell it all. You have to read the book, "My Father, My Son: The Story of the Zumwalts" (Macmillan). Suffice to say it was one of the most memorable evenings ever at the OPC.

MEMORIAL DEDICATED

Honors fallen war correspondents; McGurn represents OPC at event

By JESSIE STEARNS

WASHINGTON—A memorial and the oak tree under which it stands in Arlington National Cemetery have been dedicated in honor of more than 200 fallen U.S. war correspondents.

The memorial in the shape of an open book is inscribed, "one who finds a truth lights a torch."

Principle speakers included Barrett McGurn, representing the OPC, who noted the OPC dedicated a similar plaque 25 years ago. It listed 100 names of U.S. correspondents killed abroad covering wars.

"The plaque we dedicate today lists more than twice as many," said McGurn, war correspondent for *Yank*, later *The New York Herald Tribune* and subsequently press officer in Vietnam, who conducted the "Five O'Clock Follies," briefing correspondents in Saigon. "It is at least small comfort to know that the memory of these lost comrades will be preserved for the future here in this corner of this great national cemetery."



Adm. Zumwalt (L) and son

Steve Bell, ABC commentator, who was interned while covering the Vietnam war, was master of ceremonies.

Gen. Thomas Turnage, administrator, Veterans Administration, said the group of Americans "we salute today had a large part not only in telling our history, but in shaping it. These men and women gave their lives in the cause of truth."

Turnage read a message from President Reagan saluting the correspondents who "shared the danger of our combat forces to bring the news to the American people."

McGurn said, "news men and news women continue to risk and lose their lives so that our people may have the news of what transpires in our nation's battlefields."

"Many of us share the memories today of our lost friends. I think especially of George Polk, CBS, who was murdered as he attempted to cover both sides of the Greek civil war, Maggie Higgins and Dickey Chappell in Viet Nam, and Mrs. Welles Hagen, and a score of other journalists of many nations, vanished in Cambodia in the early 1970s.

"It is at least a small comfort to know that the memory of these lost comrades will be preserved for the future there in this corner of this great national cemetery," said McGurn.

Vietnam Media Reunion

We will report in the next issue on the first-ever Vietnam Correspondents Reunion Dinner held Nov. 21 at the Seventh Regiment Armory.

Correspondents' memorial

From Page 1

Max Desfor, AP photographer, who photographed the Japanese surrender ceremony on U.S.S. MISSOURI in Tokyo Bay in September 1945, and the Korean War, said, "This tree grows in memory of journalists who died while covering wars or conflicts for the American people."

Andy Mollison, vice president, National Press Club, said at the height of World War II, for every 400 newspapers, magazines and stations, there were only ten full-time war correspondents. The casualty rate was four times as high as that for the fighting force in that war.

George Herman, CBS, found no cynics in the Korean War. He called the dead correspondents "soldiers of Democracy."

Georgia Anne Geyer, syndicated columnist who covered the Dominican revolution, the guerrilla war in Guatemala, the Vietnam War, the civil wars in El Salvador and Lebanon, said, "Often on a daily basis correspondents see the most horrible deeds of man...I found they got angry and enraged with the world, but did not get depressed, and pessimistic."

Bob Lewis, president, Society of Professional Journalists, SDX, said correspondents admired the foot soldiers, and they helped correspondents to understand the price of keeping freedom.

Keyes Beach covered World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars. For 33 years he was a foreign correspondent in the Far East, and a recipient of many awards. Called on to speak, he declined saying, "I forgot my helmet."

George Esper, AP, represented the press corps in Vietnam. He recalled he was nearby when **Dickey Chappelle** was killed at Danang in a mine explosion.

Also present were **Robert Sherrod**, LIFE, who covered the Pacific Theater, **Barry Zorthian**, formerly of LIFE, who was connected with Saigon's 5 p.m. follies and **Howard K. Smith**, ABC and CBS News.

Terry Lewis, AP, went to the microphone and asked "What are we doing to free Terry Anderson and the other two Americans held in Lebanon?"

Jerry Levin, Cable News Network, who was held in Lebanon for a year, then escaped, said he and his wife are doing all they can to free the three Americans.

Drew Middleton covered WWII for AP and The New York Times. He said none of the correspondents were conscripted. They went, and did so gladly, in pursuit of their profession. At least they are not forgotten.

After the Memorial was unveiled containing the 200 names of the fallen war correspondents, a champagne toast was said saluting them.

Carmella LaSpada, chairman of "No Greater Love" arranged the event. Her organization cares for children of Americans who have given their lives in service of our country in the pursuit of Peace.

The OPC, National Press Club, Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, were the sponsoring organizations.

Ralph Gardner, as you'll notice on the adjacent column, has joined the OPC Bulletin's volunteer staff. We have a couple more prospects and need one or two others, someone to cover our events and someone to photograph them. A real team of OPC pros would mean we could get The Bulletin out on time—maybe.

OPC'er **Amelia Lobsenz**, Chairman and CEO of Lobsenz-Stevens, Inc., the New York public relations firm, has been named Chairman of International Affairs of the Pinnacle Group, a consortium of twenty-nine leading U.S. and overseas PR companies. She also is President of the International Public Relations Association.

Bruce MacDonnell, former NBC correspondent and now a free-lance newsman, has been elected president of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan for the year 1986-87, a post his wife held two years ago. MacDonnell and his wife, **Mary Ann Maskery**, who reported for ABC, are the first couple to serve as presidents since the club was founded in 1945. **Richard Pyle**, Asia news editor for The Associated Press, was elected first vice president in the June voting.

OPC'er **Elsa Rogo** has received a special citation from the Columbia School of Journalism for a lifetime devoted to our profession. Hail and hearty, Elsa recalls her most notable beat, dramatic Paramount News film footage of the sinking between Miami and Cuba of the Ward Line's Steamship Havana when she was en route to Mexico with a group of students. Congress, as a result, mandated boatdrills on American flag ships.

*Who's doing what,
when, where and if
there's space, why*

By RALPH GARDNER

Founder Member **Irene Corbally Kuhn's** article, *Shanghai: The Vintage Years*, which appeared in *Gourmet* magazine (January, '86), was published in October in the Los Angeles Times' twice-a-year *Travel In Style* section. The story, which brought mail from all over the world, is being syndicated by the L.A. Times.

France-based OPC'er **Jacques Richardson** is now correspondent for *R&D Management Digest*, *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews* and *The Scientist*. He left UNESCO in 1985 after thirteen years editing its seven-language journal, *Impact of Science on Society*.

Len Kaufman, Florida-based photographer, was featured—with fifteen photos—in *Travel Holiday* magazine.

Dick Hyman, OPC member since founding days, reports publication of his twentieth book, *The Columbus Chicken Statute*. Dick joined when "OPC didn't have a permanent home and met for luncheon at the old Great Northern Hotel."

From Tel Aviv, OPC'er **Max Gendel** sends news of the recent election of officers of the Foreign Press Association in Israel. New Board Members include Peter Allen-Frost, ABC; Chairman; Jeff Levine, CNN, Vice-Chairman; Willy Bowman-Werkman, KRO, Hon. Secretary, and Shabtai Tal, Stern magazine, Hon. Treasurer. The other officers are Jim Hollander, Reuters; Lazare Bianco, Hon. Member; Bob Slater, Time, and Jamil Hamad, Time.

Veteran OPC'er Col. Barney Oldfield, USAF, Retired (but busier than ever), was the speaker at the National Association of Retired Federal Employees convention at Long Beach, California. His inspirational talk, *Retired: How Successful Are You?*, was featured in *Vital Speeches of the Day*, and reprinted in the *Congressional Record*. Fan mail included a warm "Dear Barney" note from President Reagan and another from Sen. Claude Pepper.

Meet **Lilly Leech**, of Deer Park, N.Y., the OPC's new bookkeeper, formerly of the Whitehall Club and also the 60 East Club. If you don't get Mary Novick when you call the club office, you'll get Lilly, a cheerful, direct young lady who allows she is single, emphasizes that by adding she's unmarried, and adds she's available.

OPC Twilight Jazz Ensemble and fans



Wilma Dobie



All your news that fits

Please keep telling us what you're doing. OPCers' activities make for a better OPC Bulletin. We're trying to keep up with the items you've been sending. We'll admit it's not quite original but our motto is, "All your news that fits."

Alumni pack Trib night—2 dispute author's view

Author **Richard Kluger** got a surprise when he appeared at the OPC to talk about his book on the late, great *New York Herald Tribune*—a couple of OPCers who challenged parts of the book.

Many of the people who dedicated their lives to that most extraordinary of newspapers packed the hall. That they feel strongly about their alma mater was readily clear when lively debate ensued.

First came **Lester Zwick**, the gist of whose remarks were that there was no way The Trib could have been saved. Not that Kluger said it could. But he suggested a number of possibilities after delineating the causes of its demise.

Kluger suggested The Trib might have become an afternoon paper. It might have made a "suburban connection." It might have become more metro-oriented. And that New York is a special case that could support two "quality newspapers."

Zwick, listing papers he's had shot out from under him, contended advertising and circulation problems were insurmountable and, in that sense, whatever the editorial quality, "There's no way you can make a go of a dog."

And then came **Ansell Talbert**, ex-Trib correspondent and aviation editor. He protested the part of the book about Marguerite Higgins.

"You've been unfair to Maggie Higgins," said Talbert. "You left the impression she was a tramp."

This debate went on for some time. It became pretty heated—to the point OPC President **Herb Kupferberg** asked Talbert to ask his question or sit down.

"Whatever she did in college," Talbert said, "she was monogamous while she was in Korea."

Kluger, an ex-Trib staffer himself, of course, said he never wrote she wasn't. He

said his book agreed with Talbert about the talent, courage and achievements of the pioneer woman reporter who overcame military opposition to cover the war at the front.

"But it was in the worst taste—the part about her getting her period and going 20 miles for a Kotex," said Talbert.

"Considering she had to go through enemy territory in the dark," said Kluger, it had significance.

All this controversy aside, Kluger said his book, "The Paper: The Life and Death of the New York Herald Tribune" (Knopf), might have been expected to appeal only to ex-Trib staffers but first response indicates it may attract a much larger audience "I didn't anticipate."

"As we get fewer and fewer papers," he said, "it may tell a lot about why they are gone."

Peoplers

Three cheers for **Sid Shapiro**, supervising editor of *Stars & Stripes*' New York office. He has been presented an engraved pewter plate and citation for 40 years of service beginning with the London edition in World War II, later with European *Stripes* in Darmstadt and subsequently running bureaus around Europe. Award came a little late. Sid will mark his 43rd year with *Stripes* in April. He holds the record for length of service among *Stripes* staffers and is the only one who goes back to WWII.

Bill McKeown, Senior Editor of *OUT-DOOR LIFE* Magazine, race driver in the Evinrude 100 M.P.H. Club, travel writer and 30-year member of OPC, appeared on the Good Morning America TV show in a live remote from his home-state Colorado Rockies and on the Today Show in New York. Both were aired during the same week, and on both McKeown demonstrated the latest improvements in modern camping. Earlier this spring, his 30 radio shows, telling how to get started pleasure boating, were broadcast nationally by the National Marine Manufacturers Association, parent organization for the power and sail industry.

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Note to OPC on Daniloff Affair

Dave Gergen, editor, *U.S. News & World Report*, writes Norman Schorr, OPC Freedom of the Press Committee chief: "All of us at U.S. News want to thank you and your colleagues for your splendid help in securing the freedom of Nicholas Daniloff." Gergen says press outcry surprised Russians; speeded Nick's release and adds hope "this episode may deter others from seizing Western journalists."

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OPC'er **Alvin Rosenfeld**, Director of Public Affairs for the Smithsonian Institution in Washington for the past eight years, has moved on to become Vice Director for Administration at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, a public institution to be built near the National Mall in Washington. Rosenfeld served as a foreign correspondent for the *New York Herald Tribune*, the *New York Post* and *NBC News* for three decades and, among other stories, covered the trial of Adolph Eichmann, architect of "the final solution of the Jewish problem," in Jerusalem.

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